

NEK-0001

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as found in PCT application no. KR2004/001350 on p. 3, line 24 to p.4, line 6, as follows:

According to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method for producing an organic acid, which includes: mixing a compound containing one or two aldehyde groups and a solvent to obtain a reaction mixture; and maintaining the reaction mixture in a liquid phase in the presence of pure oxygen or O₂-enriched air containing 25-90% oxygen at a temperature of 0-70°C, under a pressure condition of an-atmospheric pressure to 10 kg/cm², and for 2-10 hours.

And on p. 7, line 22 to p. 8, line 14 as follows:

A reaction temperature is in a range of 0-70°C and preferably 5-60°C. If the reaction temperature is low, the selectivity of the organic acid may increase but an oxygen density in the reaction system may increase, thereby lowering stability. Therefore, oxidation at an excessively low temperature is not preferable. The oxidation may be carried out at an atmospheric pressure. However, the oxidation at a slightly pressurized condition can increase the solubility of oxygen, thereby ensuring a high conversion rate. At the same time, the selectivity of the organic acid can increase. In this regard, a reaction pressure may be in an a range from an-atmospheric pressure to 10 kg/cm² (gauge), and preferably 3-8 kg/cm² (gauge).

Since the oxidation reaction produces a large quantity of heat, sufficient removal of the heat is required. If the heat of the oxidation reaction is not sufficiently removed, explosion may occur. A reaction rate is determined by a flow rate of oxygen and a heat removal method. A

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reaction duration is generally 2-10 hours and preferably 3-8 hours.